Eng 3391 YA Test: *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

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**Multiple Choice or True/False** [2 points each / 26 points]

*Directions****:*** For each of the following questions, circle the **BEST** answer from the choices provided.

**True** or False This is Melinda Sordino’s first year of high school.

True or **False** Melinda is happy and excited about the first day of school.

**True** or False Heather turns out to be Melinda most true friend.

Why have Melinda’s friends and classmates ostracized her? A

1. She called the police to a party she was attending at the end of the summer.
2. She got drunk at the party and made a fool of herself.
3. She is not talking to anyone and doesn’t act like she did in middle school.

Why does Melinda decide she needs to find a new friend? A

1. So she will not look and feel stupid.
2. So she will have someone to tell her story to.
3. So they can join a group together.

What behaviors that describe how Melinda’s classmates and old friends treat her: A

1. Ignore her and taunt her.
2. Invite her to meet their new friends.
3. Notice she is depressed and ask to help.

What are Melinda’s parents’ main concerns? A

1. Her declining grades
2. The fact that she does not confide in them.
3. Her friendships.

Melinda finds a place in the school where she can hide—what is this place? A

1. Old Janitor’s Closet
2. Gym Locker room
3. Sports Field House

What does this place provide for Melinda? A

1. A safe room to be quiet in and hide.
2. A place to do her homework.
3. A room she can decorate the way she wants to.

Why was the intercourse between Melinda and Andy Evans rape and not consensual sex? C

1. Melinda was a virgin.
2. Melinda was drunk.
3. Melinda said No, but Andy forces himself on her.

Why do you believe Melinda chooses not to tell anyone what happened to her? D

* 1. She is embarrassed and ashamed.
  2. She does not want to incriminate herself.
  3. She is afraid people won’t believe her.
  4. All of the above.

Why does Melinda like Mr. Freeman the art teacher: A

1. He shows an interest in her art and consistently encourages her.
2. He is young and attractive.
3. He doesn’t demand anything from his students and leaves her along.

Which quote best illustrates that Melinda is ready to deal with her emotional trauma: B

1. “It feels safer in my little hideaway. I doze off.”
2. “A small, clean part of me waits to warm and burst through the surface. Some quiet Melindagirl I haven’t seen in months. That is the seed I will care for.”
3. “Sometimes I think high school is one long hazing activity: if you are tough enough to survive this, they’ll let you become an adult.”

**Short Answer** [8 points each / 56 points]

*Directions****:*** For each of the following questions, write one to two **complete** sentences in response to the question in the space provided. Provide specific examples from the text to support your answers.

Which class does Melinda do consistently well in and why?

* Art
* It is the only place she feels safe enough to express herself in.
* She likes the teacher.

Most of the student characters in this story find a group or “clan” to associate with—what attributes or qualities draw particular students together?

* Shared interests, like sports, hobbies, aptitude, etc.
* Similar desires
* Romance and friendship

Melinda comes to admire her Lab Partner David Petrakis—why?

* He states up to Mr. Neck and demands his right to speak.

List some ways Melinda deals with the shame she is feeling?

* She won’t talk about it.
* She hurts herself.
* She skips school and doesn’t care about her grades.

Melinda does not confide in her parents about being at the party or what happened at the party—why?

* They were not at home when she got home and she was scared.
* She can tell they are stressed out and she believes that they could not handle the truth.
* She is embarrassed and ashamed.

When the Merryweather High PTA petitioned to get rid of the Hornet as the school mascot the student council counterpetitioned to keep it and stated, “We are a hive. A community of students. Don’t take away our Hornetdom. We *are* Hornets.”

Describe the Merryweather community of students:

* The students divide up into groups or clans, like jocks, cheerleaders, the “Martha’s,” or the nerds.
* They are unsure of who they are and struggling to find an identity.

Why is Melinda afraid to tell her ex-best friend Rachel/Rachelle what Andy Evans did to her?

* Because Rachel was mad that Melinda called the police and she has been ignoring her the whole year.
* She is afraid Rachel won’t listen to her.
* She is afraid Rachel won’t believe her.
* She is afraid Rachel will hate her.

**Essay** [18 points]

*Directions****:*** Write a brief essay in response to **ONE** of the following question. Provide at least two reasons to support your idea, and use examples from the novel to illustrate what you are discussing. Write your essay in the space provided. If you need extra paper, please turn the test over and write on the back of the page. Clearly identify which of the two essay questions you are answering. You only need to respond to **ONE** question!

1. Discuss how relationships change as young people move from middle school to high school and why they change (include relationships between friends, parents, teachers, etc.).
   * Students sense of themselves changes.
   * Their interests in friends, sports, or extracurricular activities change and they make new friends.
   * They may hurt others with their actions because they are more concerned about themselves.

**OR**

1. Discuss the symbolism of Melinda’s Tree art project and how it evolved in the story.

* The Tree is a picture of her damaged life or self.
* It is scarred by experiences in life and takes on a new form and appearance.
* The Tree evolves as she allows the caring people in her life to affect her (examples would be her parents, Mr. Freeman, counselor, Ivy, Heather, and David Petrakis)